

Houston science museum seeking JSC volunteers

The Houston Museum of Natural Science is seeking volunteers and will be at JSC next month to discuss available opportunities.

"The Houston Museum of Natural Science is very proud to offer one of the most rewarding and exciting volunteer programs in the Houston area," said Claudia Baltodano, recruiter for the museum's volunteer services. "Our volunteer program provides an excellent opportunity for JSC employees to become more involved in helping children and adults nourish their knowledge in science and encourage them to appreciate and love the world around them."

Baltodano will be at JSC from 2-3 p.m. Aug. 14 in Bldg. 45, Rm. 251 to discuss the volunteer program with interested employees. Some demonstrations, including live animals, will be included in the meeting.

The museum houses the Cockrell Butterfly Center, Burke Baker Planetarium, Wortham IMAX Theatre, the world's first Challenger Learning Center and over a dozen halls of permanent natural science exhibits that the museum hosts each year.

Volunteers work in every area of the museum, from interpreting exhibits for school children and families, to essential jobs behind the scenes. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available.

Volunteers may choose to work with the public as interpreters of the museum's permanent and temporary exhibits and assist with educational and outreach programs, or choose to be visitor services volunteers, assisting the information desk patrons. Volunteers also may choose to help with special events and fundraising activities, in all areas of planning, organizing and executing the events. Staff volunteers also are needed to work behind the scenes to maintain files, prepare mailings and help to organize and catalog museum collections. Training is provided in all areas.

Aside from the inherent personal rewards which come from volunteering, employees also will receive museum benefits Baltodano said. Volunteers will receive free parking and two free passes for every 20 hours of volunteer service, a 10 percent discount in the Museum Gift Shop and information on upcoming events.

To learn more about the museum and its volunteer program, employees can visit the museum's web site at URL: <http://www.hmns.mus.tx.us:80/hmns/home.html>

Employees interested in becoming museum volunteers may attend the Aug. 14 meeting or call the museum volunteer office at 639-4643.

Disability act marks sixth anniversary

Today marks the sixth anniversary of the signing of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Equal Opportunity Programs Office is available to help maximize the potential of disabled workers.

This landmark legislation gives civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities, similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age and religion. Several federal statutes have been passed to enhance the opportunities of persons with disabilities to enjoy the benefits and rewards of work.

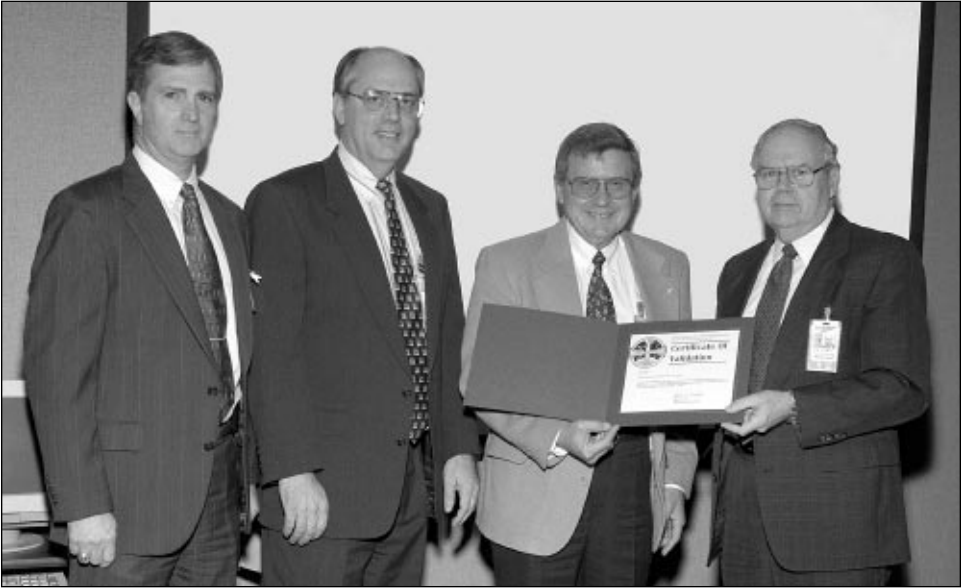
Among these statutes are two laws of interest to the work force at JSC—the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA. The intent of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was for the federal government to become a model employer of individuals with disabilities. The ADA was patterned after the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both laws provide employees and employers with guidelines to maximize job opportunities and employment potential for employees with disabilities.

The laws include requirements for employers to make reasonable accommodations to employ and retain qualified handicapped individuals. Such accommodations could involve restructuring the job, modifying work schedules, adjusting or modifying examinations, providing readers or interpreters and acquiring or modifying equipment or facilities. The employer is not required to provide reasonable accommodation if it will impose an undue hardship on operations. The ADA does not require employers to hire anyone who is not qualified. An employee or job applicant may not succeed in claiming discrimination under the ADA unless he or she meets all the requirements of the job and can perform its essential functions.

For more information employees may contact the Equal Opportunity Programs Office at x30601.

Correction

A story in the July 19 edition of the Space News Roundup incorrectly identified the In-flight Maintenance Group team members. Members were Jeff Stone, Paul Lloyd, Randy Barckholtz, Victor Badillo, Ronnie Rogers and John Shimp.



EARNED VALUE—Above: Mission Operations Director John O'Neill, right, presents Certificates of Validation to, from left, Jay Crutchfield, Ron Gantz and Leroy Hall of Lockheed Martin, formerly Loral, following demonstrations that their performance management systems and management teams are compliant with the cost and schedules control system criteria, also known as "earned value."



Right: Hughes-Link also received validation from MOD. From left are, Charlie Floyd of Hughes-Link, O'Neill and Howard Marshall also of Hughes-Link. Earned Value Management is a proven industry best-practice process that provides for improved contract planning and control by integrating contract scope, schedule and cost objectives. Through the establishment of a baseline plan for performance, it provides a sound basis for early problem identification, impact analysis and corrective action as may be required. By emphasizing adherence to approved processes, earned value management facilitates improved communications within each company and with their JSC customers. As a result of their success, JSC now has improved cost and schedule visibility on two major MOD contracts.

JSC Photo by Mark Sowa

Discovery returns to fleet; '97 mission will service Hubble

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flight of the large science module. The double module provides more room for experiments and supplies for the Mir-22 crew.

Meanwhile, *Columbia* is in the Orbiter Processing facility at KSC undergoing preparations for STS-80—the third flight of the Wake Shield Facility. Engineers are preparing to test *Columbia*'s fuel cell voltage. The flash evaporator system was flushed this week and technicians will remove and replace an auxiliary power unit today. The impact of the solid rocket booster swap on

Columbia's launch date is continuing to be assessed.

Elsewhere, technicians are beginning work on *Discovery*, just returned recently via ferry flight from a modification period in Palmdale, Ca. *Discovery*'s next mission is planned to be STS-82 in early 1997, the second Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission. Also, preparations are in work for *Endeavour* to be transported to California for its maintenance period. Upon its return from Palmdale, *Endeavour*'s next flight will be the first International Space Station mission in 1997.

Lucid writes home about Mir space walking activities

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their backs. I told them that you can only take pictures of what you can see. We named that video "Cosmonaut Spines." Although I cannot see everything, I can hear the entire EVA. Several times during a night pass I have been watching them work in a small flat pancake of light out on the end of some module and have heard them muttering about the mamas and the papas—the Russians use these terms instead of "male" and "female" for electrical connectors—as they work on connecting a payload to station power. It all feels warm and homey.

After five hours of intensive work, it is time to think about coming back inside and Yuri rotates the handle that controls the long pole, swinging the other Yuri through space on the

end of this cosmic "fishing pole." Yuri and Yuri then enter the airlock and begin the process of repressurization. After what seems like a long time, and after many requests for me to read them the station pressure, the airlock opens and they suddenly appear in the base block looking like two excited young boys that have just completed a great adventure. They immediately watch the video I have taken and excitedly discuss each event while drinking the hot tea or the tube of juice I have waiting. Unfortunately, even the best plans sometimes go wrong. After the last EVA, I had what I thought was Yuri's favorite juice. He eagerly grabbed it with a smile of thanks, which immediately turned into a horrible grimace as a glob of catsup squirted into his mouth. Yes, I had

mistakenly gotten the wrong tube. They all look pretty much alike. My language skills are not quite at the level that I could convince him that I should at least get points for trying.

Before the first EVA that occurred while I was on Mir, Yuri and Yuri joked about what I would be doing while they were outside, saying that I would be the "commander" of Mir—commander by virtue of being the only person inside the station. They jokingly agreed with each other that I would have a large American flag hanging in the base block to greet their return. Well, no, I did not hang up the American flag. I wasn't sure how far to stretch their sense of humor, but I did make one command decision. For several weeks we had been eating what was left in the food containers and not opening

any new ones. As you might guess, the selection we had was not any of our favorites; that is why it was left. Being in command, and feeling very much like Captain Kirk, I knew that the first prerogative of a good commander is the welfare of her troops, so I decided to open a new container and have their favorite meat and potato dish warmed up and ready for them upon their return. Eating it with gusto after the EVA, neither one asked where it had been found. All they said was, "Thank you so much."

After our meal, it is off to bed. We wake up refreshed and begin talking about the next EVA later in the week. And I begin fantasizing that maybe this time the guys will invite me to go out with them. Yes, the stars are always brighter on the other side of the hatch.

JSC team receives honorable mention

JSC's Electronic Documentation Project Software Development Team took home honorable mention in the third NASA Software of the Year Award competition.

The 12 member team developed software that will provide an electronic capability to distribute, display and control changes for crew/ground controller procedures and documentation. The EDP System will include the functionality provided by the current paper based system, but in an electronic format. This system will be available in the office, control center and in training instructor facilities. In addition, the EDP System will build on the paper process with hypertext extensions. The electronic system will reduce the cost of maintaining the current paper-based method of operations. The system also will improve the efficiency and provide enhanced flexibility in document usage, supplement and ultimately replace the paper documents and provide NASA-wide access to Mission Operations documents.

The Software of the Year Award winners were Linked Windows Interactive Data System, or LinkWinds, developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Tetrahedral Unstructured Software System, or TetrUSS, developed by NASA's Langley Research Center. LinkWinds software will help scientists better examine geophysical and climatological data. TetrUSS provides solutions to aerodynamic problems in designing new aircraft.

NASA will present the awards at the Technology 2006 Conference to be held in Anaheim, Calif., in October. Recipients will receive a plaque and a substantial monetary award.

Symposium calls for technical papers

The 31st Aerospace Mechanisms Symposium, planned for May 14-16 at Marshall Space Flight Center, will focus on the problems of design, fabrication, test and operational use of aerospace mechanisms.

The program will emphasize hardware developments. Informative and thought-provoking papers pertaining to mechanisms technology are now being solicited for the symposium.

Papers should describe fully-developed, tested and/or flown space or aircraft mechanisms and should contain essential design details and also unique requirements and other factors of interest to engineers developing flight hardware. Authors are encouraged to discuss anomalies that have occurred and thus help others avoid similar problems in the future.

Papers for presentation are selected on the basis of summaries of approximately 1000 words and must include the principal results of the investigation, along with the scope and status of the work.

Summaries must be submitted by Sept. 6 to Edward Boesiger at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space, P.O. Box 3504, Orgn. 73-15, Bldg. 150, 1111 Lockheed Way, Sunnyvale, Calif. 94088-3504. Employees also may call 408-743-2377, or email at boesiger_ed@mm.ssd.lmsc.lockheed.com

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